

## STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS, THE TECHNIQUES OF SHASHI DESHPANDE

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### ABSTRACT

*Indian novel had most widely attached to the Indian history and mythology which the theme was constructed. The twentieth century witnessed a lot of progress as it had a bearing on understanding of style. The most important influence on fiction was the style of narrative which was replaced by a combo of the first person and third person. Language was taken as a living medium that involves the writer directly addressing the reader. It also had taken into account the situations, and socio-cultural conventions that prevalent in Indian society before and after independence.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Stream of Consciousness, Technique, Novel, Narrative, Flashback & Perception*

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### INTRODUCTION

Since twentieth century until today the genre of novel is absolutely a vital aspect in literature. The novelist's quest to develop artistic narrative the past, present and future compounded into a complex narrative strand. The art of narration itself becomes highly self conscious, constantly seeking ways to redefine the writer's quest for newer forms of narrative such as stream of consciousness technique. The plot or story's classification where as amended by the novelists which the narrator as the main protagonist relates the story in first person narration as in kamala Markandaya's *Nector in a Sieve* in which the narrator is not the leading character in the narrative and is mainly used to report the events as in the case of the village woman in Rajarao's *Kanthapura*; the narrator is the omniscient in third person as in the norm in most traditional novels. In contemporary novels, it is uncommon to find a mélange of different types of narration in one text.

The mode of narration can be direct, indirect or free indirect discourse. Closely allied to this mode is 'the stream of consciousness technique', the term which has been a vague since the 1920's; William James used it to describe the unbroken flow of conscious and unconscious thoughts, feelings, perceptions, memories etc. In a sincere effort to portray the goings on in the human mind, the novelist has been faulted for dressing up in language, the perceptions, thoughts, feelings etc. which might have been existed at the pre-language level.

Creative writing, a process that rolls in human minds towards creating new ideas. In post-modern times, the Indian novelists successfully used different strategies to gain the realistic effect. The great trio, Mulkraj Anand, R K Narayan, Raja Rao tried to localizing English, by using native words, misspelling, hybridization etc have been beautifully evoked the native colour. Shashi Deshpande is very popular for her wide use of stream of consciousness technique which is her style for her novels. It is usually associated with the modern novelists during early twentieth century. Perhaps, the most popular use of this technique came into light with the publication of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Salman Rushdie is one of the modern novelists who follows the stream of consciousness narrative which

continue to appear in contemporary literature. Stream of conscious is a fictional device which is a narrative mode that depicts the multitudinous thoughts and feelings that pass through the mind. The term was coined by William James in 1890 in his *The Principles of Psychology* and in 1918 May Sinclair first applied this term, Stream of Consciousness in a literary context, when discussing Dorothy Richardson's novels. This technique is broadly used in Indian cinema of regional language as the narrative swings in flashback, creating the background through minute details which is quite interesting. The modern trend of flash back technique is delightful with liveliness, vigour, and vitality so that the readers of this modern era are enthralled by flash back narration.

This paper focuses on the narrative techniques of Shashi Deshpande who is an eminent woman novelist and short story writer. Her narration is very common narrative is usually employed by the novelist to make her story more realistic or credible, Deshpande uses the flash back devices to lend force and realism with a combination of first person and third person narrative she made her novel to have a very fantastic realistic narrative technique.

In *Roots and Shadows* (The novel deals with the protagonist, Indus's painful self analysis.) The first chapter deals with the present and other chapters move backwards in to the past and the final chapter of the novel is again in the present. But this type of narration has been criticized by the critics saying that it creates confusion in the mind of the reader. The entire novel is written in the first person narrative allows the author to examine the mind of the protagonist, exposing her fears and frustrations inviting the praise of reviewers and critics. A famous reviewer Watson C. W. Compares Shashi Deshpande to the master story teller Chekhov says:

"No other south Indian writer has been compared to Chekhov but Shashideshpande in this novel at least, comes closest to that writer, and the tragic comedy of 'The Cherry Orchard' is constantly recalled in the description of the crumbling house and the squabbling of the family. The writing is beautifully controlled and avoids the temptation of the sentimentality which the subject, might suggest and again the control is reminiscent of Chekhov (Watson C. W. 1995: 75)

Shashi Deshpande's another novel '*The Dark Holds No Terrors*, portrays the psychological problems faced by the protagonist, Sarita. In this novel Deshpande shifts the narrative from the first person to the third person, was asked by Lakshmi Holmstrom in an interview as to how she had hit upon the technique Deshpande replied:

"The present is the third person and the past is the first person I was doing through tint he first. But that's often a perspective I use in my short stories. I wanted to be more objective. So I tried it in the third. Yet I really needed to distance myself from the narrative the present, otherwise it was going to be far intense. And then I read an American novel by Lisa Alther where she uses this method And that minute I came across her novel I thought – Let me admit it freely Oh god, this is how I am going to do my novel" (Interview : Shashi Deshpande talks to Lakshmi Holmstrom, 1993 : 23-24).

Deshpande style is very is and simple for the reader as her narrative technique of her all novels, she makes a combination of first person and the third person narrative coupled with flash back devices to present the credibility and authenticity of her novels. C. V. Venu Gopal comments "Deshpande is a mature and technically accomplished story teller" (Venu Gopal C. V and Hedge, 1991 (Set.1): 215)

## CONCLUSIONS

Deshpande's techniques are very authentic, and apt, which is very close to the reader as her novel techniques are a combo of first and third person narrative which reflect the consciousness of human mind in the process of introspection and

so as retrospection. The theme of realization by understanding one self, which is common in her novels, besides struggle for identity, assertion of individuality, and independence of woman.

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#### **STATEMENT**

It is neither published nor submitted to any journal or magazine and purely it is my genuine work.

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